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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"It was because the Government thought that Mr. Siva Rao's presence on the Bellary Municipal Council would be useful."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know if Mr. Siva Rao belongs to the depressed classes ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Member knows to what class Mr. Siva Rao belongs."

Dr B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Is it because Mr. Siva Rao voted for the constitution of the Madras Parliamentary Committee that he was nominated ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That was not the reason."

Nomination of Mr. W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar as President of the Ramnad District Board.

* 1128 Q.—Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to tate—

(*a*) whether the District Board of Ramnad passed a unanimous resolution that it should be permitted to elect its own President and communicated the resolution to the Government or to His Excellency the Governor ;

(*b*) whether thereafter the Government appointed Mr. W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar, M.L.C., of Pattiveeranpatti, Madura district, as a member and President of the district board, Ramnad ;

(*c*) what were the reasons for Government not giving effect to the said resolution of the district board ;

(*d*) whether the Government considered the propriety of appointing any of the already existing members of the Ramnad District Board as President ;

(*e*) what are the reasons for the appointment of Mr. Soundarapandia Nadar as President in preference to existing members of the Ramnad District Board ; and

(*f*) what is the age, educational qualification and previous standing and experience of Mr. Soundarapandia Nadar as a member or President of any local or municipal body ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*e*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (*b*) of question No. 838 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 29th November 1928.

(*d*) The Government considered all aspects of the case before coming to a decision.

(*f*) He was a member of the Nilakkottai Taluk Board in the Madura district. The Government have no information as to his age and educational qualifications.

Construction of the road from Cheruvathoor to Malabar.

* 1129 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the request of the South Kanara District Board that the cost of Rs. 72,000 for constructing the 8 miles and odd of the coast road from Cheruvathoor to connect it with Malabar should be met from provincial funds ; and

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(b) whether they propose to grant the required amount and provide for it in the coming budget?

A.—(a) No. The scheme is not yet ready and some details connected with it are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilization of the railway cess collected by district boards.

*1130 Q.—Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of railway cess accumulated by each of the district boards which have no railways of their own;

(b) whether any proposals have been called for by the Government from such boards for the utilization of these amounts; and

(c) whether the boards will be permitted to lay any remunerative and well paying feeder or branch railway lines in their jurisdiction?

A.—(a) A statement[a] is appended.

(b) Yes; district boards were asked in 1927 whether they wished to formulate by means of committees or otherwise proposals for the utilization of railway cess accumulations on the construction of new roads and bridges. Almost all the district boards have stated that either proposals for such utilization have been already sanctioned or that they have already formed or are willing to form committees to formulate proposals.

(c) The normal procedure laid down by the Railway Board in the matter of construction of branch and feeder railway lines is the construction by the Government of India or, at its cost by a company, of a branch line which a district board desires to have constructed and is prepared to guarantee.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"In view of the table furnished, may I ask whether the Government have any proposal before them that some portion of the railway cess accumulation in the Kurnool district should be diverted to the making of the Srisailam Road and if the Government are negotiating on that matter with the district board?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am afraid I cannot reply to this question at present because I must get information before I can give any definite reply."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In such a case, the proper reply would be 'Notice'."

Municipal Councils

Nomination of Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai to the Chidambaram Municipal Council.

*1131-A Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for nominating the out-going Chairman, Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, as a member of the Chidambaram Municipal Council;

[a] Printed as Appendix IX on page 303 infra.